

# Use of NDE Techniques for Compliance Verification of Suspect Counterfeit EEE Parts

Completed Technology Project (2013 - 2015)



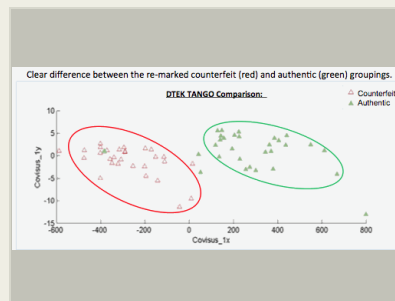
## Project Introduction

Genuine microelectronics components are critical to NASA for Human Rating Requirement (HRR) for Manned Follow-On Vehicles and for planetary missions. Counterfeited electrical components could cause failure resulting in loss of mission or, in the case of manned missions, loss of life. There exists a wide variation of fraudulent/counterfeit electronic components due to the various types of components and their packaging construction. Currently, there exists no single standard inspection test to detect suspect fraudulent/counterfeit parts or to verify component integrity. This task identifies and/or develops nondestructive evaluation methods that can be used by NASA Centers and their suppliers to mitigate the risk of fraudulent/counterfeit electronic parts. The methods will first be implemented by the distributor or their test provider or during the incoming receiving inspection process at the Center. In addition, the methods will be used as a control of in-process (post acceptance) and in-service investigations of suspect fraudulent/counterfeit parts. This will purge NASA hardware of such non-conforming parts and thus increase safety and mission success.

### Specific inspection issue being addressed and history of inspection problems.

Genuine microelectronics components are critical to NASA for Human Rating Requirement (HRR) for Manned Follow-On Vehicles and for planetary missions. Counterfeited electrical components could cause failure resulting in loss of mission or, in the case of manned missions, loss of life. There exists a wide variation of fraudulent/counterfeit electronic components due to the various types of components and their packaging construction. The following examples of suspect counterfeit electronic components in recent Government-Industry Data Exchange Program reports demonstrate this variety:

Currently, there exists no single standard inspection test to detect suspect fraudulent/counterfeit parts or to verify component integrity. Although loosely used, this process is not called authentication because the term "authentication" is reserved for a process conducted by the original component manufacturer. The original component manufacturer owns the intellectual property and the original test hardware and software used in the original manufacturing of the component. However, once the parts enter the supply chain, the manufacturer will never retest the parts. Testing conducted by distributors or by independent third party test service providers is called "product verification". Industry product verification in the supply chain must then be conducted as a series of nondestructive and destructive tests because counterfeiters of electronic parts continue to evolve their methods to mask evidence of remarking or resurfacing. Most recent counterfeiters are now assembling used parts, with unknown history and reliability issues, into new packages that have no evidence of remarking or resurfacing. These practices force the user or test service providers to continually upgrade product verification methods.



There is a clear difference between counterfeit and authentic groupings using the DTEK Quantitative Optical Inspection machine.

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## Details on how completion of this task will increase safety and mission assurance.

It is the intention of this task to identify and/or develop nondestructive evaluation methods that can be used by NASA Centers and their suppliers to mitigate the risk of fraudulent/counterfeit electronic parts. The methods will first be implemented by the distributor or their test provider or during the incoming receiving inspection process at the Center. In addition, the methods will be used as a control of in-process (post acceptance) and in-service investigations of suspect fraudulent/counterfeit parts. This will purge NASA hardware of such non-conforming parts and thus increase safety and mission success.

Details on how this work supports specific Programs and Program elements. Nondestructive evaluation methods for component verification will form a key part of the overall NASA risk mitigation methods for addressing the threat of fraudulent/counterfeit electronic parts that could be installed in NASA hardware. This work supports all programs as specified in NASA Policy Directive, NPD 8730.2C, released in November 2008. Specifically, this NASA (electrical, electronic, and electromechanical) Parts policy addresses "mandatory" mitigation of counterfeit electronic parts and applies to NASA Headquarters, NASA Centers, including Component Facilities, NASA programs and projects, and to the JPL and other NASA contractors and grantees as delineated in their contracts or grants. In addition, NPD 8730.2C applies to flight hardware, critical ground support equipment (GSE), and critical ground test systems used in Category 1 and Category 2 projects as defined by NPR 7120.5D, NASA Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements, and/or Class A, B, or C payloads as defined by NPR 8705.4, Risk Classification for NASA Payloads, Appendix A.

## What achievements, to date, have been made on the task?

A novel non-destructive method has been identified for detection of counterfeit hardware. The method is referred to as the DTEK Quantitative Optical Inspection system and involves optically measuring or quantifying the surface of electronic components to subsequently use for comparative analysis. Electronic parts are placed under the optical measurement machine, which quantifies the subtle patterns on the surface of the component. These patterns are then compared to a "known gold standard" or to each other. The software can detect pattern differences and identify any components that fall out of the expected limits of variation. The method is very quick and can easily be incorporated into receiving inspection type operations. The company, Covisus, maintains the software and library of gold standards along with the analysis. The service and machine are provided for a yearly fee. A

## Organizational Responsibility

### Responsible Mission Directorate:

Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA)

### Lead Center / Facility:

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

### Responsible Program:

Nondestructive Evaluation Program

## Project Management

### Program Director:

Terrence W Wilcutt

### Program Managers:

Jeannette F Plante  
Jason P Moore  
Eric R Burke

### Project Manager:

Jose C Abesamis

## Technology Areas

### Primary:

- TX13 Ground, Test, and Surface Systems
  - └ TX13.1 Infrastructure Optimization
  - └ TX13.1.5 Ground and Surface Logistics

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contract has been completed between JPL and Covisus and the machine is currently set up in the JPL Receiving Inspection area.

### **What still needs to be done and when is it expected to be completed?**

The DTEK Quantitative Optical Inspection machine needs to be incorporated into the Receiving Inspection flow, gold standards developed and an analysis performed to assess the cost and benefit of using the machine. In addition, JPL must partner with other centers to share the current technique information, potentially share libraries and also identify any other non-destructive techniques that may be explored.

### **Center Point of Contact**

John E. O'Donnell, (818) 354-4636

### **Anticipated Benefits**

It is the intention of this task to identify and/or develop nondestructive evaluation methods that can be used by NASA Centers and their suppliers to mitigate the risk of fraudulent/counterfeit electronic parts. The methods will first be implemented by the distributor or their test provider or during the incoming receiving inspection process at the Center. In addition, the methods will be used as a control of in-process (post acceptance) and in-service investigations of suspect fraudulent/counterfeit parts. This will purge NASA hardware of such non-conforming parts and thus increase safety and mission success.

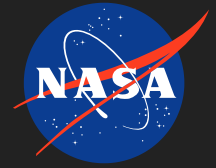
Details on how this work supports specific Programs and Program elements.

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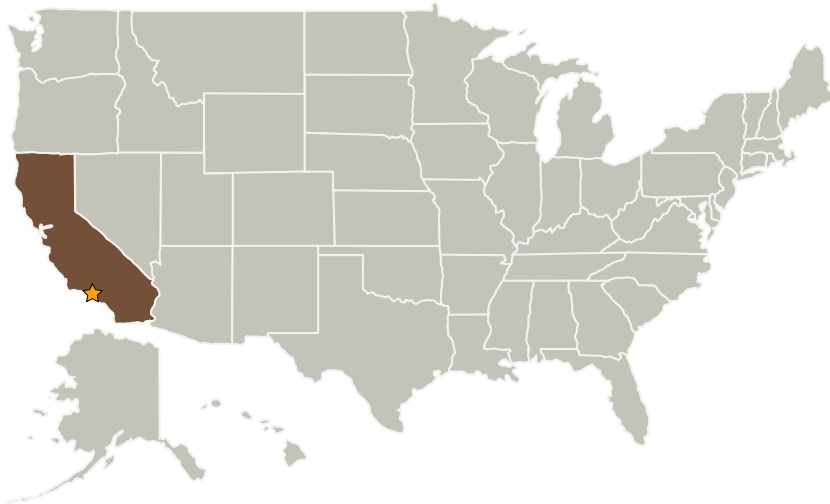
Same as above.

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## Primary U.S. Work Locations and Key Partners



Organizations Performing Work	Role	Type	Location
★ Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)	Lead Organization	NASA Center	Pasadena, California

## Primary U.S. Work Locations

California

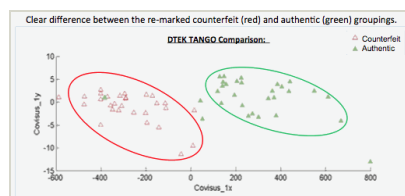
## Images



The DTEK 2.0 Benchtop Unit

**DTEK 2.0**

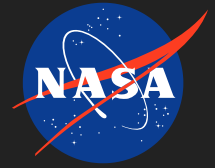
Counterfeit part avoidance system  
(<https://techport.nasa.gov/image/17661>)

**Groupings**

There is a clear difference between counterfeit and authentic groupings using the DTEK Quantitative Optical Inspection machine.  
(<https://techport.nasa.gov/image/17660>)

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### Links

Counterfeit Parts Avoidance Training for EEE Parts, Carlo Abesamis, 16-Sep-2011  
([http://trs-new.jpl.nasa.gov/dspace/bitstream/2014/43866/1/11-2642\\_A1b.pdf](http://trs-new.jpl.nasa.gov/dspace/bitstream/2014/43866/1/11-2642_A1b.pdf))

### Project Website:

<http://nnwg.org/innovations/>